

Minutes: Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC)
December 9, 2005 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
The Cornhusker Hotel, Lancaster Room 4-5-6
Lincoln, Nebraska

LeaAnn Johnson, past chair, opened the meeting of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council on December 9, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska. Denise Wright, chair, could not attend the meeting due to medical reasons.

Members present: Mary A Frank, Kathy Anderson, Michelle Bartlett, Christine Carr, Kim Chase, Eric Dunning, Kris Elmsphaeuser, Mary Fran Flood, Kathy Halverson-Rigatuso, Sally Hansen, Ali Hettenbaugh, Mary Jo Iwan, Barbara Jackson, LeaAnn Johnson (to 12:00), Marjorie Kostelnik, Terri Lewis, Kim Madsen (to 1:40), Paul Matson, Betty Medinger, Ruth Miller, Sue Obermiller, Mary Phillips, Cindy Prater, Mike Queen, Roger Reikofski, DiAnna Schimek, Barbara Schliesser, Joyce Thomas, Carey Winkler, Carrie Witte.

Members absent: Sue Adams, Marcia Corr, Sali Gale, Susan Kringle, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Todd Reckling, Connie Shonka, Patti Waltman, Derek Weimer, Denise Wright, Linda Zinke.

Also in attendance:

ECICC Staff: Terry Rohren, facilitator; Susan Dahm, secretary.

Technical assistants: Nina Baker, *PTI-Nebraska*; Mark Smith, *Monroe-Meyer Institute*; *Early Childhood Training Center:* Carol Fichter; *HHSS:* Paula Eurek; *NDE:* Judy Fricke, Pat Frost, Eleanor Kirkland; *Facilitator-GBC:* Martha Gadberry.

Guests: Dave Schinzel for Senator Gwen Howard; Eric Thompson, *Bureau of Business Research, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*; Heather Gill, *Nebraska Home Health, Ogallala*; Jessie Rasmusson, *Children & Families Foundation*, Susan Kapler, *graduate student, Munroe-Meyer Institute, UNMC*.

AGENDA:

The Family Leadership Team met at 8:00 a.m. before the opening of the regular ECICC meeting.

1. Opening and Announcements:

- i. LeaAnn Johnson, past chairperson, opened the meeting in the absence of Chairperson Denise Wright, who could not attend due to a knee injury. LeaAnn led the group in an introduction game to identify roles of members and to introduce new members to the Council. New members to the Council are: Michelle Bartlett, Mary Fran Flood, Sali Gale, Kathy Halverson-Rigatuso, Marjorie Kostelnik, Terry Lewis, Mary Phillips, Mary Alice "Mike" Queen, Senator DiAnne Schimek, Joyce Thomas, and Linda Zinke. Several of the new members participated in an orientation to the ECICC on December 8, 2005.
- ii. **Approval of minutes**
Motion, seconded: To approve the ECICC minutes of August 26, 2005, as submitted and provided to members in the pre-meeting packet. There was no discussion. The motion to approve the minutes passed by unanimous voice vote. There were no abstentions.
- iii. **Actions since the last meeting**
LeaAnn Johnson reviewed actions listed on the agenda that had taken place since the August 26, 2005 ECICC meeting. Mary A Frank and Carey Winkler provided input on the meeting between Governor Heineman and ECICC representatives.

iv. Election of Vice Chairperson

Ballots were cast to elect an ECICC vice-chairperson. Nominees were Mary Afrank and Ruth Miller.

- The election of Ruth Miller as vice-chairperson was announced at the end of the meeting.

2. Family Story

The family story was presented in the form of a DVD created by Susan Strahm, ESU 1, using a grant to prepare families to tell their story. The DVD features stories told by several families of children with disabilities in northeast Nebraska. The families discussed some of their experiences dealing with their child's disability, which included cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and hearing loss.

3. Economic Impact Study for Child Care.

Betty Medinger introduced Eric Thompson, Bureau of Business Research, University of Nebraska Lincoln, who presented on behalf of the ECICC Financing Task Force on their proposal to do a study on the economic impact of child care in Nebraska. Eric used a PowerPoint presentation to describe how an impact study would be approached. He explained the areas in which early care and education as an industry impacts the economy of Nebraska and described how early care and education affects the workforce in indirect ways. The study would document the statistics, levels of funding, unique aspects of the early care and education industry, and how it affects economy. He responded to questions from Council members about the timeline for the study, financing resources, longevity for use of the information and the need for statewide dissemination. Betty provided handouts with additional information for members to pick up.

- Mary Jo Iwan recommended that a strategy for how to use the study be decided before the study begins. She also encouraged involving the State Economic Development and Department of Labor throughout the study.
- *Action:*
See motion for an impact study in #VII –Financing Task Force, below.

IV. Bill Watch

Nina Baker distributed brochures and provided information about Bill Watch, which will begin in January at the beginning of the next Nebraska Legislative session. Bill Watch is a web crawler that obtains information about changes in bills designated by a small group who identify bills related to children with special needs. Subscribers to Bill Watch, which is free, get information about a bill's status. Nina invited Council participants to subscribe by sending an e-mail to: nbaker@billwatch.org. Nina noted that the ECICC Legislative and Communications Committee could provide advice about identifying bills.

V. Committees/Working Groups

Members and technical assistants met from 10:00 a.m. to noon in three breakout groups: the Gaps and Barriers Committee, the Legislative and Communications Committee, and the Financing Task Force.

VI. Public Comment

No public comment was presented to the Council.

VII. Report Outs from Committees/Working Groups

- **Family Leadership Team**
Carey Winkler reported on items discussed at the 8:00 a.m. meeting of the Family Leadership Team.

- **Gaps and Barriers Committee (GBC)**

Sue Obermiller reported on the GBC breakout session and the previous day's (December 8) special meeting of the GBC.

- The purpose of the December 8 meeting was twofold: 1) to provide input on family surveys required for new IDEA regulations, and 2) to set priorities for the coming year. The group chose three priorities:
 - a) to monitor and provide input on the development and implementation of Results Matter, the federal mandate for measuring child and family outcomes and gathering data;
 - b) to monitor and identify gaps and barriers in implementation of referrals through CAPTA (Child Abuse Protection and Treatment Act) to the Early Development Network (EDN) and identify areas where targeted training is needed to ensure that referrals occur; and
 - c) to use data from the CONNECT system to review referral patterns to the EDN, identify problem areas, and recommend strategies to address the problems.
- *Action:*

Two recommendations from the GBC breakout session were presented to the Council:

 - 1) To include a presentation on the positive behavioral supports system on the agenda of the next ECICC meeting.
 - 2) To send a letter to the Nebraska Department of Roads to include in their study on transportation for people with disabilities the consideration of conflicting regulations for transporting young children in early childhood programs.

Both recommendations were accepted by consensus.
- The GBC also discussed how to continue and encourage on-going communication from the local level to the Council and from the Council to the local level, particularly concerning gaps and barriers for young children with disabilities and in child care and early childhood education.

- **Financing Task Force**

- Ruth Miller reported that during their breakout session the Financing Task Force had brainstormed ideas for partners who could help in conducting an economic impact study of child care in Nebraska. She invited Council members to identify local businesses to add to the list.
- Ruth asked for a motion from the Council to accept their recommendation for the impact study.
- *Action:*

Motion, seconded: To accept the Financing Task Force recommendation that the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation be the lead agency in conducting an economic impact study of child care in Nebraska and to inform and actively involve the ECICC Financing Task Force throughout the two phases of the study:

 - Phase 1: Establish an advisory team, which would include business partners, and identify potential blended funding that can support the economic input study.
 - Phase 2: Package the information so it is a public awareness campaign and develop marketing plans.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. There were no abstentions.

- **Legislative and Communications Committee**

- Terry Rohren distributed and highlighted items from two handouts: the Federal Budget Update and a Summary of the Medicaid Advisory Task Force Report to Governor that she

had prepared at the request of the Committee, which were discussed by the committee during their breakout session.

- Terry reported that Paul Matson had called attention to Federal Bill HR4022 regarding health insurance coverage plans to include reconstructive facial-cranial surgery and asked members to support the bill.

8. Early Childhood Outcomes and Positive Behavioral Supports

- Barb Schliesser presented background information about the Results Matter program for measuring and collecting data on outcomes for children and families. The state will begin collecting outcomes data in April 2006 as required by federal mandate.

Barb Jackson described the work of the Results Matter task force, which has examined the philosophy of assessment, identified three choices for assessment tools to be used by school districts and Early Development Network programs, and proposed plans for communication of the data between local and state levels. The task force also recommended training to ensure understanding on the local level. The task force will continue to make recommendations about use and reporting of the data. The expectation is to phase in this process in Spring 2006 with the goal for everyone to adopt the process by September 2006.

Carol Fichter reported that training for administrators of the assessment tools for ages birth-to-three and three-to-five is planned to begin January 26 and 27, 2006. The Nebraska trainers will replicate the training across the state in Spring 2006. A web page on Results Matter can be found on the Early Childhood Training Center (ECTC) web site:

http://www.esu3.org/ectc/special_projects/results_matter/results_matter.htm

Barb Schliesser thanked Barb Jackson and Carol Fichter for their intensive work on this endeavor.

- Carol Fichter distributed information articles and reported on the ECTC program that is using a General Supervision Enhancement Grant (GSEG) to develop and provide a system-wide approach of goals to promote positive behavior. The program will build on the program that ECTC has been conducting in pilot sites for early childhood and after-school programs. Carol described an up-coming meeting to develop a state plan to develop leadership teams and coaches to disseminate the model across the state. They are also considering the evaluation process using the model. Carol said that the ECICC Gaps and Barriers Committee will continue to follow the progress and provide advice as the process proceeds.
 - Mary Jo Iwan suggested that Child Protective Service (CPS) workers might also be included in training, which would benefit in their work with families.
 - Carol will follow up with Mary Jo for including CPS worker in the March planning.
 - Barb Schliesser noted that this is a way to provide infrastructure for Birth-to-5 group, something that has already been done for the 6-21 age-group.

9. Early Childhood Mental Health Update

- Carol Fichter and Kathy Anderson presented information on planning for a children's mental health state infrastructure grant (SIG). They provided a handout about the Early Childhood Mental Health System of Care Project and highlighted various aspects of the project. They also discussed challenges to implementing and continuing the screening process, the benefits to be gained, and problems in providing services and concerns for families refusing services. They invited Council members to contact Tanya Rasher-Miller with questions about the project.
- Carol provided additional information about other initiatives/organizations in children's mental health in communities in Nebraska, especially interest in mental health issues for young children. She announced the newly organized Nebraska Association for Infant Mental Health,

provided an information sheet on the organization, and encouraged consideration of applying for membership. More information is on the ECTC web page under Early Childhood Mental Health for Nebraska's Children: <http://www.esu3.org/ectc/partnerships/ecmh.htm>

10. Together for Kids and Families

- Paula Eurek provided an update on the progress of the two-year comprehensive planning grant and reviewed the planning components addressed in the plan. The draft is currently going through review and will be posted for public comment. She asked for Council members' support in gathering input from a wide range of stakeholders. She said that while Together for Kids and Families is still in draft format, it is a working document that is already making a difference.
- Paula also discussed a Nebraska State Infrastructure Grant (NSIG) from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, which is providing \$750,000 per year for five years to help develop infrastructure in Nebraska. The grant will have several areas of focus related to children's mental health: 1) early identification of children at risk for social, emotional, or behavioral problems and services to address their needs; and, 2) development of system strategies for screening, referral, and treatment for perinatal depression. She explained the committee structure, which has representation from the ECICC. The committee is conducting research for understanding where Nebraska currently stands and to prioritize issues to address. The group is also looking at linkages with other community programs for outreach and awareness.

11. Early Learning Guidelines for Ages Birth-3

- Carol Fichter distributed an overview and updated members about the progress in developing the *Early Learning Guidelines for Ages Birth-3*. The guidelines provide an approach across seven domains for development expectations for children birth-to-age-three. The guidelines will be published in January 2006. A copy may be found on the NDE website: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ECH/ELGuidelines/NebraskaEarlyLearningGuidelinesforBirthtoAge3.htm>
- Carol described training opportunities and resources to expand on the birth-3 guidelines. The ECTC website has information about workshops on the guidelines and around each of the seven domains. ECTC also has packet of training modules for self study.

12. Other

- **Kindergarten Feasibility Study:** Information about the State Board of Education's Full Day Kindergarten Feasibility/Impact Study was distributed. The study contains results of a survey sent to Nebraska school districts on the feasibility of requiring full day kindergarten in Rule 10.
- **New Vice-Chair:** Terry Rohren announced the Ruth Miller was elected as vice-chair of ECICC by vote of the members present at the meeting.
- **Positive behavioral supports** was suggested as an agenda item for the next ECICC meeting.

The Council adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Next meeting: **NOTE TIME CHANGE—Friday, February 10, 2006, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**
 (Recommendation of the Steering Committee, January 9, 2006)
 The Family Leadership Team will meet at 8:30 a.m.

MEETING HANDOUTS:

- ✓ ECICC 2005-2006 Roster (December 9, 2005)-tentative
- ✓ Roster Updates: December 9, 2005
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Steering Committee, November 7, 2005
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Gaps and Barriers Committee, August 26, 2005
- ✓ Minutes: ECICC Legislative and Communications Committee, August 26, 2005
- ✓ Information Report from ECICC Legislative Committee: Federal Budget Update
- ✓ Information Report from ECICC Legislative Committee: Nebraska Medicaid Reform
- ✓ PowerPoint presentation: Research Proposal: The Economic Impact of Early Care and Education in Nebraska
- ✓ Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration Office–Report to ECICC, December 8, 2005
- ✓ Bill Watch brochure
- ✓ Feedback Form for Nebraska’s Early Learning Guidelines Ages Birth to 3
- ✓ Article: The Teaching Pyramid–A Model for Supporting Social Competence and Preventing Challenging Behavior in Young Children
- ✓ Article: Recommended Practices–Linking Social Development and Behavior to School Readiness
- ✓ Information sheet: The Early Childhood Mental Health System of Care Project for Central Nebraska
- ✓ Information sheet: Perinatal Depression Screening in Nebraska Project
- ✓ Information sheet: Nebraska Children’s Mental Health and Substance Abuse Early Childhood Subcommittee
- ✓ Information sheet: Early Childhood Mental Health for Nebraska’s Children
- ✓ Information sheet: Nebraska Association for Infant Mental Health
- ✓ Report: Nebraska Head Start 2004-2005 State Profile
- ✓ Report: Full Day Kindergarten Feasibility/Impact Study
- ✓ Draft: Together for Kids and Families Strategic Plan, November 2005